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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/470,204	12/22/1999	SATOSHI NISHIKAWA	862.3177	5888
5514	7590	11/01/2004	EXAMINER	
FITZPATRICK CELLA HARPER & SCINTO 30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA NEW YORK, NY 10112			PHAM, THIERRY L	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2624	

DATE MAILED: 11/01/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Advisory Action	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/470,204	NISHIKAWA ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Thierry L Pham	2624

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

THE REPLY FILED 25 August 2004 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE. Therefore, further action by the applicant is required to avoid abandonment of this application. A proper reply to a final rejection under 37 CFR 1.113 may only be either: (1) a timely filed amendment which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a timely filed Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee); or (3) a timely filed Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114.

PERIOD FOR REPLY [check either a) or b)]

- a) The period for reply expires ____ months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
- b) The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection.
ONLY CHECK THIS BOX WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

1. A Notice of Appeal was filed on _____. Appellant's Brief must be filed within the period set forth in 37 CFR 1.192(a), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 1.191(d)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal.
2. The proposed amendment(s) will not be entered because:
 - (a) they raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
 - (b) they raise the issue of new matter (see Note below);
 - (c) they are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
 - (d) they present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: ____

3. Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): ____.
4. Newly proposed or amended claim(s) ____ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).
5. The a) affidavit, b) exhibit, or c) request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: See Continuation Sheet.
6. The affidavit or exhibit will NOT be considered because it is not directed SOLELY to issues which were newly raised by the Examiner in the final rejection.
7. For purposes of Appeal, the proposed amendment(s) a) will not be entered or b) will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.

The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:

Claim(s) allowed: ____.

Claim(s) objected to: ____.

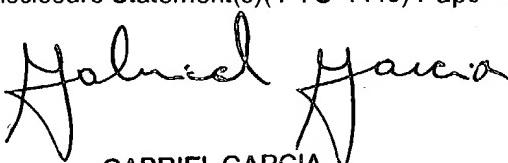
Claim(s) rejected: ____.

Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: ____.

8. The drawing correction filed on ____ is a) approved or b) disapproved by the Examiner.

9. Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). ____.

10. Other: ____.



GABRIEL GARCIA
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Continuation of 5. does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: newly added limitations "a print setting step of setting, based on a user input to a graphical user interface provided by a printer driver and controlling remotely by a host computer" found in claims 1, 7, and 13 raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-3, 7-9, 13, 14, 17 and 20, as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A printing control method of controlling, from a host computer, a printing device to output printing data onto a printing medium, comprising:

a print setting step of setting, based on a user input to a graphical user interface provided by a printer driver, a separation printing setting and a printing order setting for a print job;

a separation printing check step of checking the separation printing setting representing whether a predetermined medium is additionally output over each printed page of the printed data;

a printing order check step of checking the printing order setting representing whether the printing data is output from a final page or from a first page; and

a control step of selectively controlling to (i) output a page of the printing data and then output the predetermined medium before a next page of the printing data is output when the separation printing setting is set to additionally output the predetermined medium and the printing order setting is set to output the printing data from the first page, and (ii) to output the predetermined medium before each printed page of the printing data is output when the separation printing setting is set to additionally output the predetermined medium and the printing order setting is set to output the printing data from the final page,

wherein the print setting step sets the separation printing setting and the printing order setting with respect to individual print jobs.

2. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, further A printing control method of controlling a printing device to output printing data onto a printing medium, comprising:

a print setting step of setting, based on a user input to a graphical user interface, a separation printing setting and a printing order setting for a print job;

a separation printing check step of checking the separation printing setting representing whether a predetermined medium is additionally output over each printed page of the printed data;

a printing order check step of checking the printing order setting representing whether the printing data is output from a final page or from a first page;

a control step of selectively controlling to (i) output a page of the printing data and then output the predetermined medium before a next page of the printing data is output when the separation printing setting is set to additionally output the predetermined medium and the printing order setting is set to output the printing data from the first page, and (ii) to output the predetermined medium before each printed page of the printing data is output when the separation printing setting is set to additionally output the predetermined medium and the printing order setting is set to output the printing data from the final page;

a saving state check step of checking whether the printing device is set to a saving state in which a page having no output data is not output; and

a saving function invalidating step of invalidating setting of the saving state when setting of additionally outputting the predetermined medium is detected in the separation printing check step and setting of the saving state is detected in the saving function check step,

wherein the print setting step sets the separation printing setting and the printing order setting with respect to individual print jobs.

3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein A printing control method of controlling a printing device to output printing data onto a printing medium, comprising:

a print setting step of setting, based on a user input to a graphical user interface, a separation printing setting and a printing order setting for a print job;

a separation printing check step of checking the separation printing setting representing whether a predetermined medium is additionally output over each printed page of the printed data, the separation printing check step comprises comprising checking a layout paper printing setting, set in advance, representing whether a predetermined content is printed on the predetermined medium; medium, and

the method further comprises:

a printing order check step of checking the printing order setting representing whether the printing data is output from a final page or from a first page;

a control step of selectively controlling to (i) output a page of the printing data and then output the predetermined medium before a next page of the printing data is output when the separation printing setting is set to additionally output the predetermined medium and the printing order setting is set to output the printing data from the first page, and (ii) to output the predetermined medium before each printed page of the printing data is output when the separation printing setting is set to additionally output the predetermined medium and the printing order setting is set to output the printing data from the final page;

a saving state check step of checking whether the printing device is set to a saving state in which a page having no output data is not output; and

a saving function invalidating step of invalidating setting of the saving state when the separation printing setting is set to additionally output the predetermined medium, and the layout paper printing setting is set off,

wherein the print setting step sets the separation printing setting and the printing order setting with respect to individual print jobs.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the printing medium is a transparent resin film, and the predetermined medium is paper.

5. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 3, wherein the predetermined content is the same as content printed on each page of the output.

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

a spool step of converting the printing data into another format and saving the converted data as a spool file; and

a despooler step of mapping the spool file under control of the control step and supplying the mapped file to the printing device.

7. (Currently Amended) A printing control apparatus for remotely controlling a printing device to output printing data onto a printing medium, comprising:

print setting means for setting, based on a user input to a graphical user interface provided by a printer driver, a separation printing setting and a printing order setting for a print job;

separation printing check means for checking the separation printing setting representing whether a predetermined medium is additionally output over each page of the output predetermined data;

printing order check means for checking the printing order setting representing whether the predetermined data is output from a final page or from a first page; and

control means for selectively controlling to (i) output each page of the printing data and then output the predetermined medium before a next printed page is output when the separation printing setting is set to additionally output the predetermined medium and the printing order setting is set to output the printing data from the first page, and (ii) output the predetermined medium before each page of the printing data is output when the separation printing setting is set to output the predetermined medium and the printing order setting is set to output the printing data from the final page,

wherein the print setting means sets the separation printing setting and the printing order setting with respect to individual print jobs.

8. (Currently Amended) A printing control apparatus for controlling a printing device to output printing data onto a printing medium, ~~The apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising:~~

print setting means for setting, based on a user input to a graphical user interface, a separation printing setting and a printing order setting for a print job;

separation printing check means for checking the separation printing setting representing whether a predetermined medium is additionally output over each page of the output predetermined data;

printing order check means for checking the printing order setting representing whether the predetermined data is output from a final page or from a first page;

control means for selectively controlling to (i) output each page of the printing data and then output the predetermined medium before a next printed page is

output when the separation printing setting is set to additionally output the predetermined medium and the printing order setting is set to output the printing data from the first page,
and (ii) output the predetermined medium before each page of the printing data is output
when the separation printing setting is set to output the predetermined medium and the
printing order setting is set to output the printing data from the final page;

saving state check means for checking whether the printing device is set to a saving state in which a page having no output data is not output; and

saving function invalidating means for invalidating setting of the saving state when setting of additionally outputting the predetermined medium is detected by said separation printing check means and setting of the saving state is detected by said saving function check means,

wherein the print setting means sets the separation printing setting and the printing order setting with respect to individual print jobs.

9. (Currently Amended) A printing control apparatus for controlling a printing device to output printing data onto a printing medium, The apparatus according to claim 7, comprising:

print setting means for setting, based on a user input to a graphical user interface, a separation printing setting and a printing order setting for a print job;

separation printing check means for checking the separation printing setting representing whether a predetermined medium is additionally output over each page of the output predetermined data, wherein said separation printing check means checks a layout paper printing setting, set in advance, representing whether a predetermined content is printed on the predetermined medium; medium; and

said apparatus further comprises:

printing order check means for checking the printing order setting
representing whether the predetermined data is output from a final page or from a first
page;

control means for selectively controlling to (i) output each page of the
printing data and then output the predetermined medium before a next printed page is
output when the separation printing setting is set to additionally output the predetermined
medium and the printing order setting is set to output the printing data from the first page,
and (ii) output the predetermined medium before each page of the printing data is output
when the separation printing setting is set to output the predetermined medium and the
printing order setting is set to output the printing data from the final page;

saving state check means for checking whether the printing device is set to a saving state in which a page having no output data is not output; and

saving function invalidating means for invalidating setting of the saving state when the separation printing setting is set to additionally output the predetermined medium, and the layout paper printing setting is set off,

wherein the print setting means sets the separation printing setting and the
printing order setting with respect to individual print jobs.

10. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the printing medium is a transparent resin film, and the predetermined medium is paper.

11. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the predetermined content is the same as content printed on each page of the output.

12. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising spool means for converting the printing data into another format and saving the converted data as a spool file; and

despooler means for mapping the spool file under control of said control means and supplying the mapped file to the printing device.

13. (Currently Amended) A storage medium storing a program which can be executed by a printing control apparatus for remotely controlling a printing device to output printing data onto a printing medium, the program comprising:

code to set, based on a user input to a graphical user input provided by a printer driver, a separation printing setting and a printing order setting for a print job;

code to check the separation printing setting representing whether a predetermined medium is additionally output over each page of the output predetermined data;

code to check the printing order setting representing whether the predetermined data is output from a final page or from a first page; and

code to selectively control to (i) output a page of the output printing data and then output the predetermined medium before a next printed page is output when the separation printing setting is set to output the predetermined medium and the printing order setting is set to output the printing data from the first page, and (ii) output the predetermined medium before each page of the output printing data is output when the separation printing setting is set to output the predetermined medium and the printing order setting is set to output the printing data from the final page,

wherein the separation printing setting and the printing order setting are set with respect to individual print jobs.

14. (Currently Amended) A printing control method comprising:
 checking printing settings including whether a plurality of different media
are to be output for each page of data and which one of face-up printing and face-down
printing is to be performed; and
 determining an output order of the plurality of different media based on
which one of face-up printing and face-down printing is to be performed,
 wherein the printing settings are set using a graphical user interface
provided by a printer driver before a printing operation, and are set with respect to
individual print jobs.

15. (Previously Presented) The printing control method according to claim
14, wherein the plurality of different media include transparent resin film and paper.

16. (Previously Presented) The printing control method according to claim
15, wherein said determining step determines that transparent resin film is to be used next
to paper when face-up printing is set, and that paper is to be used next to paper when face-
down printing is set.

17. (Currently Amended) A printing control apparatus comprising:
 checking means for checking printing settings including whether a plurality
of different media are to be output for each page of data and which one of face-up printing
and face-down printing is to be performed; and
 determining means for determining an output order of the plurality of
different media based on which one of face-up printing and face-down printing is to be
performed,

wherein the printing settings are set using a graphical user interface provided by a printer driver before a printing operation, and are set with respect to individual print jobs.

18. (Previously Presented) The printing control apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the plurality of different media includes transparent resin film and paper.

19. (Previously Presented) The printing control apparatus according to claim 18, wherein it is determined in said determining step that transparent resin film is to be used next to paper when face-up printing is set, and that paper is to be used next to paper when face-down printing is set.

20. (Currently Amended) Computer-executable program code stored on a computer-readable memory medium, said computer-executable program code for controlling printing, said computer-executable program code comprising:

code to check printing settings including whether a plurality of different media are to be output for each page of data and which one of face-up printing and face-down printing is to be performed; and

code to determine an output order of the plurality of different media based on which one of face-up printing and face-down printing is to be performed,

wherein the printing settings are set using a graphical user interface provided by a printer driver before a printing operation, and are set with respect to individual print jobs.

21. (Previously Presented) The computer-executable program code according to claim 20, wherein the plurality of different media includes transparent resin film and paper.

22. (Previously Presented) The computer-executable program code according to claim 21, wherein said code to determine the output order determines that transparent resin film is to be used next to paper when face-up printing is set, and that paper is to be used next to paper when face-down printing is set.